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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 were pending in the present Application. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended and Claims 5-9 have been added, leaving Claims 1-9 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. The Specification has been amended to update the status of cited references.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. For example, support for the amendment to Claim 1 may be found at least in paragraph [0026]. Support for newly added Claim 5 may be found at least in Claim 1 of the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/513,793, as originally filed, and paragraph [0015]. Support for newly added Claims 6 and 10 may be found at least in Claims 1 and 5 and paragraphs [0020] and [0026]. Support for newly added Claims 7-9 may be found at least in Claims 2-4, respectively. Furthermore, Claim 3 has been amended to correct for an unintentional typographical error.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Objection To The Specification

The Specification has been objected to because the title of the invention is not descriptive or indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The title has been amended to reflect the claimed method, rendering the objection to the Specification moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,547,912 to Enlow et al. (hereinafter "Enlow"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

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Currently amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a process for forming a molded structure. The process comprises forming a thermoplastic printable film comprising a fluoride polymer by laminating an extruded polycarbonate film to the fluoride polymer under heat and pressure, wherein, during the laminating, surfaces of the extruded polycarbonate film vitrify and an interior portion of the polycarbonate film remains in a thermoplastic or molten state, preforming the printable film to a predetermined configuration, placing the preformed printable film in a mold in which the inner surface of the mold conforms to the configuration of the preformed printable film and the fluoride polymer film is in contact with the inner surface of the mold; and molding by injection molding a thermoplastic base layer to an exposed side of the printable preformed film.

Enlow is generally directed to an extrusion coating process for making a protective and decorative film.

To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose each and every element of the claim. *Lewmar Marine v. Variant Inc.*, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1766 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants contend that Enlow fails to disclose all elements of Applicants' currently amended independent Claim 1. Specifically, there is no mention of at least the feature "forming a thermoplastic printable film comprising a fluoride polymer by laminating an extruded polycarbonate film to the fluoride polymer under heat and pressure, wherein, during the laminating, surfaces of the extruded polycarbonate film vitrify and an interior portion of the polycarbonate film remains in a thermoplastic or molten state". The Examiner's attention is directed to the text of Enlow regarding laminating, the relevant portions of which have been reproduced for convenience as shown below.

Referring to FIG. 3, the paint coated carrier 36 is next laminated to a thermoformable polymeric backing sheet by dry paint transfer-laminating techniques. The laminating step includes separating the carrier sheet from the clear coat layer and simultaneously bonding the clear coat and color coat to a semi-rigid backing sheet 40. The backing sheet 40 is initially wound as a supply roll 41 and is unwound and fed to a transfer-laminating station 42. The thickness of the backing sheet is preferably in a range from about 10 to about 40 mils with 20 mils being a preferred thickness of the backing sheet. The

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backing sheet can be made from various polymeric materials such as thermoplastic polyolefin, polyester, ABS, nylon, PVC, polycarbonate, polyarylate, or polyolefin such as polypropylene or polyethylene. The paint coated carrier and backing sheet pass between a heated laminating drum 44 and a pressure roll 46 for pressing the overlapping sheets into contact and for heating them at a temperature sufficient to activate the adhesive size coat, which may be coated on the dried color coat. Alternatively, the size coat may be coextruded with a backing sheet or laminated to the backing sheet prior to lamination of the clear coat and color coat to the backing sheet. Thus, the process of FIG. 3 transfers the paint coat (clear coat/color coat) to the surface of the semi-rigid thermoformable polymeric backing sheet.

(Enlow, Column 11, line 6 - Column 12, line 17)

FIG. 4 illustrates an alternative process of transferring the clear coat/color coat paint film to a thermoformable backing sheet. In this embodiment the backing sheet 52 is continuously extruded from an extruder die 54 while the paint film 36 supported by the carrier is unwound from the roll 38 and continuously extrusion laminated to the backing sheet as the backing sheet is being formed by the sheet extruder. The backing sheet may be made from any extrudable polymeric material selected from the group of backing sheet materials described previously. The resulting laminate (comprising the carrier-supported clear coat/color coat films laminated to the extruded sheet 52) passes to a calendar/chill roll stack 55 for hardening the backing sheet and bonding the clear coat/color coat film to it. The finished paint film laminate 56 is wound as a take-up roll 57 after the release coated carrier sheet 27 is removed.

(Enlow, Column 12, lines 31-46)

In the first passage recited above (Column 11, line 6 - Column 12, line 17), Enlow discloses a laminate, including a clear coat (e.g., a fluoride polymer) and a backing sheet (e.g., a polycarbonate), formed under heat and pressure. However, since the backing sheet is unwound from a supply roll and fed to a transfer laminating station, the surfaces cannot possibly vitrify and the interior portion cannot possibly remain in a thermoplastic or molten state. Therefore, this portion of Enlow cannot anticipate Applicants' claimed feature.

In the second portion recited above (Column 12, lines 31-46), Enlow only mentions that the "resulting laminate (comprising the carrier-supported clear coat/color coat films laminated to the extruded sheet 52) passes to a calendar/chill roll stack 55 for hardening the

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backing sheet and bonding the clear coat/color coat film to it." Since Enlow is silent regarding the actual laminating process, Applicants' claimed feature is clearly missing. Further, missing elements may not be supplied by the knowledge of one skilled in the art or the disclosure of another reference. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 780, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773, 777 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Therefore, this passage too fails to anticipate Applicants' claimed feature of "forming a thermoplastic printable film comprising a fluoride polymer by laminating an extruded polycarbonate film to the fluoride polymer under heat and pressure, wherein, during the laminating surfaces of the extruded polycarbonate film vitrify and an interior portion of the polycarbonate film remains in a thermoplastic or molten state".

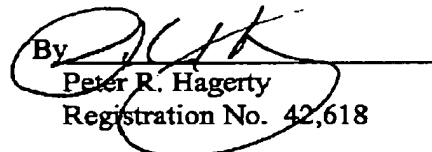
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to independent Claim 1. Given that Claims 2-4 depend from, and include all of the limitations of, the base claim, they too are patentable.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862.

Respectfully submitted,

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